

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

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new

SEE 765.84/4627 FOR Despatch #1708

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED May 23, 1936,
TO NAME 1-1187 000

REGARDING: Italian creation of a black army. Denial by newspapers that the formation of the Ethiopian Fascist Youth movement was designed as a military measure. Explanation of-

wth

865D.20 / 1

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

865-D.20

SEE 865d.01/107 FOR #1710

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED May 29, 1936
TO NAME 1-1197 ...

865D.20/2

REGARDING:

Ethiopian Youth Movement. Newly organized Fascist movement among Ethiopian youth is regarded by press as most efficacious means of improving native population physically, morally, and mentally, and of educating new subjects in loyalty to the Italian Government.

Ethiopian Youth Movement.

The newly organized Fascist movement among the Ethiopian youth is regarded by the press as the most efficacious means of improving the native population physically, morally, and mentally, and of educating the new subjects in loyalty to the Italian Government. It is denied that the intention is to build up the nucleus of a future black army at Italy's disposition in Africa or elsewhere, despite the militaristic features of this movement. (See in this connection my despatch No. 1708 of May 23rd on Italo-British relations and Mediterranean affairs, page 4.)

Meanwhile it is reported that the newly enrolled members of this Fascist organization participated in the local celebrations at Addis Ababa of May 24th, the anniversary of Italy's entrance into the World War.

THE UNDER SECRETARY

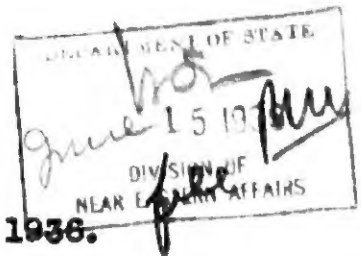
JUN 10 1936



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM



June 10, 1936.

In talking to Colonel Burnett of the War Department today on another matter I asked him whether the War Department had any information other than that which this Department had furnished respecting the military situation in Ethiopia. He replied that our reports were the only source of information which the War Department had at the present time and that consequently there would not be available in the War Department any reports on the subject with which we were not already familiar. He said that Major Fiske, the War Department's observer in Ethiopia, had sent in no telegraphic reports direct and that if any such reports were sent they would undoubtedly come through our Legation at Addis Ababa and we would of course see them.

Wallace Murray.

865D.20/3

FP

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JUN 15 1936

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JUN 16 1936
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ITALY (Combat - Army)

Subject: Mobilization - General.

Shipment of Troops to East Africa, and North Africa.

Information obtained by this office from Italian papers indicates the following troop shipments to East Africa and North Africa during the period May 15 - 20, 1936. For last report on this subject, see Italy # 15304.

- May 20 - From Naples and Messina: S.S. Sicilia with 2000 troops (engineers, artillery and Black Shirts) and 3 arty batteries. (reported sailing to Cirenaiqa).
- " 22 - From Naples: S.S. Tevere (hospital ship) with 800 troops (Carabinieri, engineers and mirmen).
S.S. Calabria with 2000 workmen.
- " 25 - From Naples: S.S. Nazario Sauro with 600 workmen.
S.S. Milano with 600 troops (reported sailing to Cirenaiqa).

Note: Records of this office give:

- a) Total troop shipments (Army, Militia and Air Force) from Italian ports to date 540,520
- b) Total workmen shipped from Italian ports to date 114,600
435,120

Since May 7, 1936, Suez Canal figures are no longer available to this office for comparison with the above.

For the Military Attaché:

Thomas B. White
Capt. A.C. USA
Asst. H/A for Air
Acting Military Attaché

JUN 17 1936

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865D.20/4

GRC

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

5

SEE 765.84/4710 FOR Telegram #230, 1 pm.

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED June 25, 1936.

TO

NAME

1-1187

...

REGARDING: Italian memorandum to be sent to the League of Nations. Will include assurances, it is believed, as to the recruiting of a black army and the protection of the native population by local police.

wth

8650.28 / 5

865D.20/6

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.01/132 FOR despatch #1743

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED June 17, 1936
TO NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Law on organization and administration of Ethiopia

Commander of the troops shall be named by Royal Decree on the proposal of the Minister for Colonies, in agreement with the Minister for War and approved by the Governor General Viceroy.

dg

6



RESTRICTED
COPY FURNISHED
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
ROME, ITALY



ITALY (COMBAT - ARMY)

Subject: Army - General.

Superior Command in East Africa Abolished.

It has been officially announced that the Superior Command in East Africa will cease to function as of July 1, 1936. The Superior Command will be replaced by the Superior General Staff, the senior officer of which is General Italo Gariboldi.

A Royal Decree was approved by the Council of Ministers at its meeting on July 4, 1936, whereby Marshal Badoglio will receive for life the full pay and allowances given him during his period of service as Superior Commander in East Africa during the Abyssinian campaign.

J. G. PILLOW,
Colonel, Cavalry, U.S.A.,
Military Attaché.

From: M. A. Rome. Report No. 15,384. July 9, 1936.

865D.20/7

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JUL 29 1936

July 7 1936

To the American Consul,
Aden, Arabia.

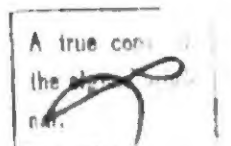
The Secretary of State encloses a copy of an article which appeared in the NEW YORK TIMES of July 6, 1936, regarding the fortification of the island of Doumeirah by Italy, and requests the Consul's comments thereon.

865D.20/7A

Enclosure:

From NEW YORK TIMES,
July 6, 1936.

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JUL 8 1936

ME

NO. 7.

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Aden, Arabia, August 4, 1936.

DIVISION OF WESTERN
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

AUG 27 1936

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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1936

CONFIDENTIAL

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

FOR DISTRIBUTION - CHECK

Yes No

Copy to

To the Field
In U. S. A

Ref. [Signature] Aug

SUBJECT: Fortification of the island of Doumeirah.

AUG 31 1936

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AUG 4 1936

DIVISION OF
NEAR EAST AFFAIRS

[Signature]

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's instruction of July 7, 1936, enclosing a copy of an article which appeared in the New York Times of July 6, 1936, regarding the fortification of the island of Doumeirah by Italy, and requesting comments thereon.

The article in question states that the island of Doumeirah may become an "Italian Gibraltar" which may dominate the straits of Bab-el-Mandab and hence the Red Sea route to the East; that the island may already be heavily fortified and armed; that this fact may be partly responsible for the recent attention given by the British to the longer route around the Cape of Good Hope to the East.

The situation as presented in the article is believed to be exaggerated and inaccurate, and the conclusions of the author, not well founded. Whatever opinions one may have on the subject, there are certainly

865D.20/8

FP

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SEP 13 - 1936

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865d.20
note
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certainly decided inaccuracies of fact in the text of the article. The following inaccurate excerpts are quoted in part, "It (i.e. Doumeirah) lies about ten miles off the African coast....The French port at Jibuti.....is about fifty miles to the south..... the British island of Perim, upon which are fortifications depended upon to maintain British control of the Red Sea, is only about fifteen miles from Doumeirah and is almost in the center of the strait." Actually it appears from a careful study of the maps available to the Consulate that the island of ~~Doumeirah~~ (also spelled ~~Dumeira~~ and ~~Dumeirah~~) is less than one mile from the African coast, and Jibuti (Djibouti) is eighty miles to the south. Furthermore there are no fortifications whatever on the British island of Perim, and it appears that this island is about eighteen miles from Doumeirah, not fifteen. Also Perim is far from being "almost in the middle of the strait"; it is separated by about two miles of water from the Arabian coast, and fifteen miles of water from the African coast. The channel between Perim and the Arabian coast is very narrow and difficult to navigate; the passage is further complicated by very strong tidal currents. The channel to the west of Perim is invariably used.

The undersigned has brought up the subject of the possible fortification of Doumeirah and its importance, in the course of several casual informal discussions with friends in both the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force at Aden. The naval officers have all visited the island of Perim, having been there as officers of H.M.S. "Enterprise" last spring. None of them know
of any

of any Italian fortifications in progress at Doumeirah, and they appeared a little in doubt as to just where or what Doumeirah might be. It appears significant that their indifference, and in more than one case, ignorance of the place, reflects definite unconcern on the part of British naval forces. The Civil Secretary at Aden remarked that he had heard the Italians were making some fortifications at Doumeirah as well as at other points nearby the strait of Bab-el-Mandeb, but that no large scale projects were being undertaken. The Air Commodore in charge of the Royal Air Forces at Aden mentioned that some armaments may be under way at Doumeirah and other points, but that he was quite sure no guns over three inch calibre were being located at these places.

It appears that no one in Aden regards Doumeirah as having any particular importance, and certainly it could have had no bearing on Britain's attention to the sea route around the Cape. Its strategic importance is small, and even if heavily fortified it could not have the importance implied in the article under reference. The British island of Perim is far more favorably located from the military standpoint, and being somewhat larger than Doumeirah, it could be better and more extensively fortified and armed. At present there is no fortification whatever there; normally there are no armaments, munitions or supplies (except coal and oil). At the present time there are ample stocks of aircraft petrol, some stocks of munitions, probably small, and likely a limited supply of spare parts for the Royal Air Force. These materials were deposited at Perim last autumn with a view to having an

an emergency base to be used, if necessary, nearer the scene of possible activity. They have not yet been removed, though this will probably be done in the near future. There is a small air field on Perim. Perim has a very good landlocked harbor, but it is small. A naval officer stated that to his knowledge there were only five white men on Perim last spring, and now perhaps only one or two. Even the very small police force is entirely native. Perim's only active importance at present is a coal and oil bunkering station. If Douneirah appeared as a threat to the British control of the straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, it is safe to assume that the British would not delay long in making a counter-move to strengthen Perim. In this connection attention is invited to the fact that the British have extensive armaments and fortifications at Sheikh Said, located at the south-western extremity of the Yemen and opposite the island of Perim. The exact extent of these fortifications are not known at the present time, though there can be little doubt that they are considerable. Under the protection of these fortifications it would appear that the British would not have much to fear from any fortification of Douneirah or other points on the African coast more than twenty miles away.

What might be a real threat, however, would be the concentration of war air-craft in the vicinity of the southern entrance of the Red Sea. This is the opinion of the Royal Air Forces in Aden, and until such time as an extremely strong threatening air base is established in this area, the general view, joint seems to be

that

that British control of the Red Sea route is not in danger. It has always been true, of course, that the British have regarded the Mediterranean portion of the route from England to the East as potentially dangerous, and now that there are, as well, military forces located not far from the southern end of the Red Sea route, and whose strength might be increased at some unforeseen time in the future, it does not appear unnatural that attention should be given an alternative route.

Respectfully yours,



C. B. Chipperfield
American Vice Consul

File No. 820/CBC/aob.

2-11-1944
Received - F. A. M.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.01/171 FOR Despatch #1889

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED Sept. 16, 1936

TO NAME 1 - 1127 ...

REGARDING: Military affairs- Italian East Africa. The proposed creation of a permanent Colonial Army, has come nearer to realization by the approval of the Council of Ministers of a decree-law providing for the reorganization of the Italian armed forces in East Africa.

865d.20/9

Military and Political.

The proposed creation of a permanent Colonial Army, mentioned on page 3 of my despatch No. 1852 of August 28 (Italian Military Activities), has come nearer realization by the approval of the Council of Ministers

on

on September 18 (see my telegram No. 371 of same date) of a draft decree-law providing for the reorganization of the Italian armed forces in East Africa. It is said that separate measures affecting the air forces and the land units of the Navy will be presented at a later date. According to the press account, the new law contemplates an army of some 65,000 men, about 40,000 of whom will be native troops. White troops will be known as "African Detachments" and native units, commanded by white officers, are to be called "Colonial Detachments," it is said, apparently in an effort to avoid the use of the word "native." The press stresses the importance of building up a trained white officer personnel which will make a career of colonial service. Native enrolment is to be on a voluntary basis and the units will have their headquarters in the region in which they are recruited. It is expected that this system will result in the native battalions becoming a useful instrument in furthering the Italians in their task of civilizing and colonizing the country. It is stated that the white troops are intended to constitute a special reserve at the disposal of each of the five provincial governments of Ethiopia. The enrolment of both officers and men is to be voluntary. It is said that the strength of the white forces will be fixed at nine mechanized battalions of Black Shirts, supported by four groups of mechanized artillery, four anti-aircraft groups, and seven companies of miscellaneous troops. A new division of Guards is also to be formed, to be known as the "Guards of the Empire" and will be garrisoned at Addis Ababa.

In addition to the colonial army mentioned above, a colonial militia is provided for which will include all of the laborers and able-bodied colonists in East

Africa

Africa who will be trained for military service in case of need. It is expected that this force will number about 150,000 men, 100,000 of whom will be laborers.

The Military Attaché to this Embassy is of the opinion that the Italian armed forces now in Africa cannot be reduced to the level envisaged in the draft decree-law described above for two or three years, depending upon how rapidly the task of pacifying and policing the conquered territory progresses.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.01/ 176 FOR Despatch #18

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED Sep. 30, 1936
TO NAME 1-1137 gpo

REGARDING: Military affairs- Italian East Africa. Announcement in a Stefani despatch from Addis Ababa on September 19th of continued military preparations of the Italians in Ethiopia in anticipation of the end of the rainy season.

fp

865d.20/10

military and political.

tefani despatch from Addis Ababa on September 19th announces the continued military preparations of the Italians in Ethiopia in anticipation of the end of the rainy season. It is predicted that the various zones of the former Ethiopian empire which are still infested with rebels and brigands will quickly be brought under control. With regard to conditions at home, the rumored destination of a punitive expedition mentioned

mentioned on page 3 of the Embassy's last despatch, the press has given prominence to the announcement of the closing of the British Consulate there and to Eden's note to the League explaining this step, in which the state of anarchy existing in the territory not yet occupied by the Italians was revealed. It is pointed out that this act of the British constitutes the final proof of the non-existence of any effective Ethiopian "government" in that region.

The press has published a more amplified account of the plan to enrol laborers into a colonial militia (see page 2 of the Embassy's last despatch). Each provincial government will have a "Command of Legions." The legions will be composed of units of 3,000 men called "Cohorts." The legions will be, in all matters pertaining to discipline, responsible to the local colonial government. Officers and non-commissioned officers will be selected from among the laborers eligible for membership in the regular black shirt militia. It is said that the labor legions will be instructed in everything relating to the upholding of law and the sanctity of contracts, as well as in the maintenance of discipline and order. Laborers engaged in road construction behind the lines of advancing troops may be called upon to join in the fighting, and the soldiers and Black Shirts, on the other hand, are expected to assist with road building when there is no fighting to be done.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

ITALY (COMBAT - ARMY)

Subject: Army Establishment.Establishment of a Permanent Colonial Army for
East Africa.

At a meeting of the Council of Ministers September 12, 1936, announcement was made of the establishment of a permanent colonial force for East Africa. This force is to be a permanent territorial corps, independent of the troops of the expeditionary force now operating in East Africa. The total strength of the colonial army, exclusive of police and irregular native bands, will be as follows:

Officers:	2,000 (career)
"	800 (complementary)
N.O.O.'s:	1,600
Men:	20,000 (Italian)
"	40,000 (native)
Animals:	12,000

The organization of this colonial army is as follows:

MAIN BODY

17 Mixed Brigades,

each brigade consisting of:

4 Battalions

4 companies (of which 1 heavy machine gun company)

1 artillery group:

3 batteries 65/17 mm. guns

2 batteries 81 mm. mortars

1 mixed engineer company

1 small field hospital

service elements.

Six of the above brigades will have 3 battalions and 1 group of 2 cavalry squadrons for employment in zones favorable for Cavalry.

The native force will therefore total 82 infantry battalions, 81 batteries, 12 cavalry squadrons, 17 companies of engineers, and services. In addition there will be an irregular force of 6 groups of bands of "dubats" (Arabo-Somali natives).

ITALIANS

1 Infantry Division - Regular Army -

"Granadiere di Savoia":

2 Regiments Granadiere (4th & 5th)

1 Regiment of Artillery (2 battalions)

2 companies Engineers

various services.

865D.20/11

G.I.C

NOV 20 1936

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This division is to be stationed permanently in Addis Abeba and under the direct command of the Viceroy.

In Addis Abeba there will also be stationed a Black Shirt Militia Detachment consisting of:

- 4 Battalions (motorized)
- 1 Battalion of artillery (motorized)
- 8 Batteries of Artillery of Position.

An additional Black Shirt militia force will be organized for employment where needed in any one of the five territorial governments: Eritrea, Somalia, Amhara, Harar and Galla-Sidamo. This force will be organized as follows:

- 9 motorized battalions, each of which has:
 - 2 motorized machine gun companies,
 - 1 company armored cars,
 - 1 company fast tanks.
- 5 Battalions motorized artillery.
- 5 Battalions antiaircraft artillery.
- 7 companies cannons for artillery of position,
- 1 motor transport groupment (autograppamento),
- 1 Regiment of Engineers.

The native brigades will be located in permanent garrisons or military posts. The Black Shirt Battalions will be distributed throughout the Empire where needed. The troops will be officered by officers of the Italian Regular Army, active or reserve. The officers will be specially selected from among those best equipped for colonial service. They will be carried on a colonial specialty list in the War Ministry and rotated so that they serve normally 5 years in the colonies and 2 in Italy.

Although the establishment of this colonial force has already been decreed, it is probable that the Italian force in East Africa will not be reduced to this small number for a number of years. There are still over 200,000 Italian troops of the expeditionary force in East Africa. As the newly conquered territory is colonized, Black Shirt militia organizations will be formed among the colonists for local protection and security.

The Italian workmen now in East Africa and those about to be sent are being organized into Fascist militia formations. A special bureau has been set up in the Ministry of Colonies for the organization and operation of labor militia. Each of the 5 territorial governments will have a Legion headquarters. Each Legion will be divided into Cohorts of 5,000 militia workmen. Officers for duty with the Legion and Cohort headquarters will come from the Fascist militia. Officers, N.C.O.'s and Black Shirts of the labor organizations will be selected from among the workmen who have the requisite ability and military experience. The period of service in these labor militia organizations will correspond to the length of the labor contract. Military training will be conducted between working hours. All personnel will be armed and equipped as militia. These labor troops will be considered as forming part of the armed forces of the State.

NORMAN H. FISK,
Major, Cavalry, U.S.A.,
Assistant Military Attaché.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.01/290 FOR Despatch #383

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED May 28, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 678

REGARDING: Military projects of Italian East Africa. Plans for military works and military barracks.

fp

865D.20/12

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8. Military projects. In relation to the contingent and location of troops, set forth in the new military organization for East Africa, plans for military works and the cost of military barracks have been determined. The Ministry of Italian Africa, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, is undertaking a careful study of what the six-year plan will cost and are elaborating a bill thereon for presentation to Parliament.

The officers of the Ministry for Italian Africa, in collaboration with the Ministry for Finance, are scrupulously ascertaining the cost of the six-year plan and working out a draft law which will be presented to Parliament at the earliest possible date.

During...

During the first year of the empire we have worked with all our faith and strength and the results obtained are satisfactory if one keeps in mind the fact that along with the work of preparation for peaceful and civilized development we have simultaneously occupied the territory of the empire, crossing through wild regions where no white man had ever penetrated.

I have told you what our intentions are. I desire to add that we realize the grave responsibilities before us, but that these serve only as incitement. In the arduous task we are supported by the benevolent, inspiring guidance of our leader and by our firm determination to be worthy of the sacrifice and heroism of the Italian people.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.415/1 FOR tel. #559 10am

FROM Ethiopia (Engert) DATED Sept. 18, 1936
TO NAME 2-1197 ...

REGARDING: Celebration of the feast of Maskal in Italian East Africa.
Military review planned by the Italians in connection with -

fo

865D.20/20

0-2 Report

MILITARY
ADVISORY

1938

OFFICE CHIEF
MIL., INTEL. DIV.

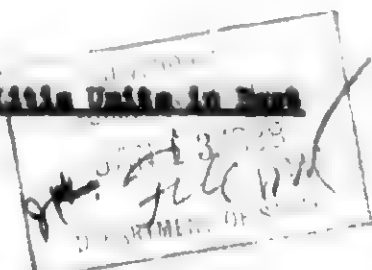


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WAR DEPARTMENT

ITALY (COMBAT - ARMY)

Subject : Distribution of Troops.

Replacement of Black Shirt Militia Units in East Africa.



In Report No. 16,372, December 17th 1937 the "173rd Battalion from Galtanisezza" should be changed to "180th Battalion from Barietta".

The following additional Black Shirt replacement units have been shipped to East Africa within the last week.

December 20th:

151st Battalion from Bari
173rd Battalion from Galtanisezza
240th Composite Battalion with companies from Udine, Verona, Milano, and Ancona.

December 22nd:

88th Battalion from Massa Carrara
118th Battalion from Rieti
164th Battalion from Intermare
170th Battalion from Agrigento

The press also states that this completes the shipment of Black Shirt Battalions, comprising 10,000 men, to East Africa.

G. R. FAIRB,
Colonel, F.A., U.S.A.,
Military Attaché.

86510-20/21

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.51/15 FOR #779

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Jan.28, 1938
TO NAME 1-1187 870

REGARDING:

Sailing of three black shirt battalions for East Africa on January 24, probably for purpose of quelling disturbances in the Goggiani area.

Press reports -.

865d.20/22

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 848t.20/9 FOR #36FROM Nairobi (Smith) DATED Feb.14, 1938
TO NAME 1-1187 cpe

REGARDING: Conditions in Ethiopia.

Encloses copy of article concerning - which comments on number of Italian troops in Addis Ababa, rumored revolt, and sending of reinforcements.

865D.20/23

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 741.65/488 Confidential File FOR Tel. #49.1pm

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED March 8, 1938,
TO NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Military duties to be required by Italy of Abyssinian natives.

Text of memorandum which Lord Perth proposes to read to Count Ciano
in inaugurating Anglo-Italian conversations touches subject of -

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 741.65/524 Confidential File FOR Tel. #81.6pm

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED April 4, 1938.
TO NAME 1-1127 ***

REGARDING: Italy and Great Britain have agreed on question of
withdrawal of troops from Libya.

865D.20/25

465d.20

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 741.65/522 FOR tel #77 noon

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Mar. 29, 1938
TO NAME 1-1127 000

REGARDING: Military Affairs - Italian East Africa

In conversations between Ciano and the British Ambassador the Italian Government gave assurances it would start immediately to withdraw troops from Libya until the normal peace strength has been reached.

dg

865D.20/26

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.51/16 FOR #861

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Apr.12, 1938
TO NAME 1-1127 878

REGARDING: Military organization in Italian East Africa.

Statement of the Undersecretary for East Africa concerning -.
Number of troops to be maintained.

865d.20

865D.20/28

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 741.65/557 FOR #872

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Apr. 21, 1938

TH NAME 1-1127 ***

REGARDING:

Provision of the Anglo-Italian Agreements -
Reaffirms that natives of Italian East Africa will not be
compelled to undertake military duties other than those of local
Policing and territorial defense.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.01/481 FOR #1264

FROM Egypt (Fish) DATED April 18, 1938
TO NAME 1-1127 000

REGARDING: Italian military position in Ethiopia.

Encloses memorandum by Vice Consul Jay Walker concerning - and other matters.

865D.20/29

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

JUN 17 1938 June 17

P.M.

J.C.D.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Rome Military Attaché estimates that there are now 96,000 Italian troops in Italian East Africa.

There are records of 24 battalions having sailed for East Africa since December 14, 1937, which would make 11 battalions there in excess of the authorized number. This indicates that considerable native resistance still exists.

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U-2 Report

HSV
JUN 21 1938
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

ITALY (POLITICAL : COMBAT - MAY)

Subject: Relationship between Mother Country and its
Dependencies - Army Establishment.

Political, Administrative and Military Organization
of Italian East Africa.

reference the following reports:

- Italy No. 15,320-3030 "Territorial sub-division of Italian East Africa" June 5, 1936.
- Italy No. 15,749-3030 "Administrative sub-divisions of the East African Provinces" January 28, 1937.
- Italy No. 16,023-6010 "Military establishment for Italian East Africa" May 28, 1937.
- Italy No. 16,161-2700 "Organization of Colonial Police Corps" August 5, 1937.
- Italy No. 16,327-3030 "New Viceroy for Ethiopia" November 23, 1937.

Royal Decree No. 2708 of November 15, 1937, published in the official Gazette of April 20, 1938, gives the "Political, Administrative and Military Organization of Italian East Africa". Those parts of this Decree which are considered of interest have been translated and are being submitted in this report.

General Government

Art. 1

The offices of the General Government are as follows:

Office of the Viceroy, Governor General;

Office of the Vice Governor General;

The General Staff;

Superior Directorate of political affairs;

Superior Directorate of civilian affairs;

Superior Directorate of economic affairs;

Superior Directorate of colonization and works;

Superior Directorate of personnel and general affairs;

Office of press and propaganda;

Superior accounting office.

A general inspectorate of police, headed by an inspector from the Corps of Colonial Police, this inspectorate receives general instructions from the Superior Directorate of political affairs.

Art. 2

The person who is entrusted with the regency of the General Government is designated as "the Agent of the General Government". He may be appointed by the Minister of Italian Africa, or by the Viceroy, Governor General, or, in his absence, by the Agent of the General Government in charge.

.....

Art. 5

The Palace of the Viceroy, Governor General includes the chief of the Palace, the various officials, one member of the Corps of Colonial Police, and a number of the armed forces and a variable number of other officials.

3650:20/30



Art. 6

The Viceroy, Governor General has one private secretary assisted by two employees.

Art. 7

The Office of the Vice Governor General includes two officials, one member of the Corps of Colonial Police and two employees.

Art. 8

The General Staff of the General Government includes:

- The Chief of Staff - a Corps General of the Army;
- The Deputy Chief of Staff - a Brigade General of the Army;
- an Inspectorate of Colonial Infantry - under a Brigade General;
- an Inspectorate of Artillery - under a Brigade General;
- an Inspectorate of Engineers - under a Brigade General;
- and an Inspectorate of the Black Shirt Units - under a Consul-General of the Militia.

Furthermore, there are:

- a Superior Directorate of Services - under a Brigade General, including:
 - a Directorate of Artillery, a Directorate of Engineers, a Directorate of Transportation, a Medical Directorate, a Commissariat Directorate, a Veterinary Directorate, and Administrative Directorate, and a geographic map office.

The General Staff also includes other organizations indicated by special regulations.

The number of officers, NCOs, enlisted men and civilians to be assigned to the General Staff shall be determined by Decree of the Minister of Italian Africa.

Art. 9

The Superior Directorates of the General Government take care of matters pertaining to the General Government and direct and coordinate affairs included in their sphere of activity.

The office of press and propaganda is charged with the supervision of all papers, broadcasting, moving pictures and public shows.

The Vice Governor General and the Directors of Superior Directorates must visit, every year, the five provinces of Italian East Africa and the Commissariats included therein, in compliance with instructions issued by the Viceroy, Governor General.

.....

Art. 11

Whenever necessary, the Viceroy, Governor General, shall issue orders for a meeting of the "General Council of the General Government". He decides as to the matters to be discussed during the meeting. Each month, copy of the proceeds of the meetings shall be submitted to the Minister of Italian Africa.

Governments of the 5 provinces

Art. 13

The offices of each Government are:

- Office of the Secretary General;
- Command of troops;
- Directorate of political affairs;
- Directorate of civilian affairs;

Directorate of economic affairs;
Directorate of Colonization and works;
Directorate of personnel and general affairs;
Accounting office.

In the capital of each province there is an Inspectorate of Police which receives general instructions from the Directorate of political affairs.

The technical services and public offices existing in the territory come under the Directorates of the Government, according to their tasks and duties.

The civil justice administrations come under the Directorate of civilian affairs, and the military justice administrations under the Command of troops.

Art. 19

The person entrusted with the regency of the Government is designated as "The Regent of the Government". He is appointed by the Viceroy, or by the Regent of the General Government, or by the Regent of the Government in charge. He is assisted by a Secretary General.

.....

Art. 22

The Command of Troops in each province government is held by a Division General of the Army. If the Regent of the Government is a general officer of the Army, Navy, Air Force or Militia, he may also be charged with the Command of Troops. In such case he is assisted by a Division general or Brigade general of the Army.

Art. 23

The Governor has one private secretary assisted by two employees, and one official of the Corps of Colonial Police.

Art. 24

The Secretary General has three officials to assist him in his work.

Art. 25

The Directorates of each Government are divided into sections, each under a Chief of Section. The Directors of Government supervise their Directorates and are responsible to the Secretary General and to the Governor.

.....

Art. 27

The Directorate of political affairs includes two sections: the section of general political affairs and the section of internal political affairs.

Art. 28

The section of general political affairs takes care of:
Affairs of an international character. Affairs concerning the frontiers and relations with adjoining territories.
Activity of missions (Catholic and others).
Affairs concerning political, commercial and administrative agreements. Economic collaboration with foreign states, organizations and in-

dividuals. Affairs concerning societies organized with the participation of foreign capital.

Affairs concerning citizens and subjects residing abroad and foreigners residing in Italian East Africa. Foreign immigration.

Foreign representatives.

Study of political and religious movements of African and Asiatic countries.

Affairs concerning organizations existing abroad for subjects.

Political information of an external character.

Art. 29

The section of internal political affairs takes care of:

Political organization, political-administrative subdivisions, internal politics.

National political activity, affairs concerning the political organizations of the Fascist Party.

Religious, Moslem and Jewish jurisdictions and relative personnel.

Affairs concerning native populations and chiefs in general. Affairs concerning local institutions and laws. Measures affecting native populations and examination of political laws applying to them. Political affairs concerning land property.

Records of all chiefs and notable personalities. Titles and honorary attributions for natives. Contributions from natives. Citizenship and title of subject. Internal political informations.

Affairs concerning the appointment of government authorities.

Affairs concerning the rights and duties of the governor with respect to the judicial administration.

Police service.

Art. 30

The Directorate of civilian affairs is divided in two sections: the section of civil organization and the section of judicial affairs and municipal administrations.

Art. 31

The section of civil organization takes care of:

Public hygiene, sanitary assistance and inspections, inspection of animals, licences to doctors, etc.

Hospitals, first aid posts, medical laboratories, medical service at ports and at frontier posts, medical first aid.

Auctioning of medical services.

Hygienic, maritime, hydro, highway and railroad public works.

Hydroelectric and thermoelectric plants.

City plans, buildings and city services.

Halls and school buildings. Public and private tuition. Fine arts and archeology.

Public welfare, assistance to public and private organizations.

Assistance to veterans and their families.

Art. 32

The section of judicial affairs and municipal administrations takes care of:

Affairs concerning the administration of justice, ordinary and special jurisdiction, ministry, extraditions, prisons.

Record of lawyers, notary publics, discipline of the legal profession.

Municipal administrations and relative services. Records of citizens and demographic services.

Military levy, war discipline, civil mobilization.

Art. 33

The Directorate of economic affairs includes four sections: The section of economic affairs, The section of communications, The section of civil financial affairs and The section of military administrative affairs.

Art. 34

The section of economic affairs takes care of:

Discipline of industrial and commercial activities. Examination of applications for carrying out such activities. Records of all such activities.

Colonial "laissez-passer" and visa on passports.

General economy: organizations concerned with its development. Studies and research concerning economic development. Preparation of general plans for development and control or enforcement of such plans. Coordination of various local activities with the economic exigencies of the land.

Industrial activities. Workmen. Mines, ores, stones and salt.

Monopolies, trade marks, patents and rights of authors.

Commercial exchange. Fairs and markets. Auxiliary commercial organizations. Caravans.

Foreign trade. Imports and exports. Commercial trade balance. Application of commercial treaties.

Customs. Exchange and currencies. Money system.

Credit and banking (exclusive of credit in connection with buildings and land property). Savings.

Insurance. Weight and measures. Supplies and consumption.

Tourist services.

Art. 35

The section of communications takes care of:

Programs and regulations concerning transportation on land, at sea and by air, and communications in general. Ways of communication and transportation. Coordination of transportation means. Affairs relative to means of transportation and communication.

Discipline of truck transportation and automobile services. Automobile lines.

Operation of railroad lines, ropeways, and air communications.

Maritime zones. Sailors. Organization of harbor service. Naval property. Examination of projects for new naval constructions. Port equipment. Lighthouses and lights. Anchorage taxes and harbor fees. Pilot service. Maritime communications. Subsidised maritime services. Transportation of personnel and material for the general administration.

Postal, telegraph and telephone services. Civil radio telegraph and radio telephone services.

Art. 36

The section of civil financial affairs takes care of:

Financial regulations. Preparation of necessary elements for the compilation of the budget. Checking of financial administration.

Organization and administration of the government land property, and other patrimonial activities.

Recreation. Taxes to be paid by local organizations. Fiscal monopolies. Financial operations of the government and local organizations.

Treasury services. Finance police. Custom services. Royal finance guard.

- 6 -

Art. 37

The Section of military administrative affairs takes care of:
Administration of the appropriations inscribed in the budget for military expenditure.

Checking accountings of cash and materiel of military organizations, within the government jurisdiction.

Art. 38

The Directorate of colonization and works includes two sections: The Section of colonization and The Section of works and assistance to workmen.

Art. 39

The Section of colonization takes care of:

Land distribution. Property. Records of property.

Agricultural programs and organizations. Distribution of terrain destined to agricultural colonization. Firms authorized to carry out such colonization.

Administrative measures concerning concession of land for agricultural purposes, concession of exploitation of spontaneous vegetation, concession of exploitation of water for irrigation.

Credits in connection with buildings and land property.

Fishing. Hunting. Protection of animals and trees.

Discipline of agricultural colonization. Examination of applications for agricultural colonization. General Records of all firms authorized to carry out agricultural colonization.

Studies and programs for agricultural improvements. Relationship between agricultural colonization and agricultural economy of the natives. Agricultural methods of natives. Study of contracts.

Reclamation of land and transformation of soil for agricultural purposes.

Technical services. Cultivation. Protection of animals. Wild animals and vegetation.

Mechanical agricultural means. Demonstrative stations.

Forestry service. Employment of Forestry Militia. Meteorological service.

Services of agricultural research. Schools. Experimental stations.

Art. 40

The Section of works and assistance to workmen takes care of:

Organization of work. Discipline and protection of professional categories. Regulations governing employment of workmen. Regulations for offer and request for workmen.

Migration of workmen. Assistance to workmen. Insurances. International problems for the protection of workmen.

Corporative organization. Cooperation.

Organizations for the moral, professional and cultural improvement of workmen.

Art. 41

The Directorate of personnel and general affairs includes three sections: The Section of personnel, The section of general affairs, and The Section of studies.

Art. 42

The Section of personnel takes care of:

Administration and discipline of civilian personnel, both regular and supernumerary, of personnel of the Royal Finance Guard and of the Special Militias which are not taken care of by other Directorates, of other military personnel detailed to civil duties who however remains under military discipline.

Administration and discipline of native personnel, civil and military, regular and supernumerary, assigned to civil services and to the armed corps of the technical services, when they do not come under other Directorates.

Art. 43

The Section of general affairs takes care of:

Organization of the general services of the offices of the Government. Supply of the offices and quarters of the administration.

Organization of archives and files.

Cash service, and accounting.

Colonial "laissez-passer" and visa on passports of members of the administration.

Operation of automotive means used by civil services.

Examination of the regulations prepared by the different services of the government.

Coordination of the various regulations issued by the government.

Publication of laws, decrees, and regulations.

Publication of the Bulletin and official papers of the government.

Filing of original governmental decrees.

Collection and publication of colonial regulations.

Affairs not assigned to other offices.

Art. 44

The Section of studies takes care of:

Studies concerning the colonial territory. Collection of data, news and information of a general character, exploration, missions and scientific research. Publications of a colonial character.

Institutes and associations of colonial culture. Affairs concerning international colonial institutes and scientific and cultural congresses.

Translations.

Geographic maps. File of maps.

Libraries and relative services.

Historical archives. Inspection of archives for collecting documents of an historical interest.

Museums, expositions and fairs. Collection of colonial curiosities and photographs.

Services of the press, broadcasting, moving pictures and public shows.

Collection and preparation of statistic data.

Art. 45

Whenever necessary, the Governor shall issue orders for a meeting of the "Council of the Government". He decides as to the matters to be discussed during the meeting. Each month, copy of the proceeds of the meetings shall be submitted to the Vicerey, Governor General, and to the Minister of Italian Africa.

Armed forces

Art. 50

The ground armed forces of Italian East Africa include:

- one national division at Addis Ababa;
- 16 colonial brigades, of which 3 in Eritrea, 4 in Aduara, 3 in Harrar, 4 in Galla and Sidamo and 2 in Somaliland;
- additional infantry, artillery and engineer troops not included in the national division and in the colonial brigades;
- services not assigned to the national division or to the colonial brigades.

Separate decrees will establish the organization of other ground forces, forces of the R. Navy and R. Aeronautica stationed in the territory and in the territorial waters of Italian East Africa.

Art. 51

The national division includes:

- one headquarters, under a Division general;
- two regiments of African infantry, each comprising the Hq, an accompanying battery, three battalions and a depot;
- one battalion of African machinegunners;
- one regiment of African artillery, comprising the Hq, two pack groups and a depot;
- two companies of African engineers;
- one medical section;
- one subsistence section.

Art. 52

The colonial brigades include:

- one headquarters, under a brigade general or a Colonel;
- colonial units of the various arms, totalling:
 - 50 battalions of colonial infantry;
 - 5 groups of squadrons of colonial cavalry;
 - 16 groups of colonial artillery;
 - 16 mixed companies of colonial engineers;
- services, consisting of one medical pack unit and one nucleus of subsistence, for each brigade.

Art. 53

The troops not included in the national division and in the colonial brigades include:

a) infantry:

- a group of four African Black Shirt battalions, at Addis Ababa;
- nine African Black Shirt motorised m'gun battalions, of which one in Eritrea, two in Aduara, two in Harrar, two in Galla and Sidamo and two in Somaliland;
- two battalions of colonial infantry, one of which in Addis Ababa and the other in Somaliland.

b) cavalry:

- a group of squadrons of colonial cavalry in Addis Ababa.

c) artillery:

- four motorised groups of African artillery, of which one in Aduara, one in Harrar, one in Galla and Sidamo and one in Somaliland;
- four African Black Shirt antiaircraft artillery groups, of which two in Addis Ababa, one in Eritrea and one in Harrar;

- one group of eight position batteries, in Addis Ababa;
- seven companies of colonial gunners, of which two in Eritrea, one in Amara, one in Harrar, one in Galla and Sidamo, and two in Gomaliland.

d) Engineers:

- one special African regiment, in Addis Ababa, comprising the Hq, two battalions, one railroad company and one depot.

Art. 54

The troops listed in the above Article and stationed in Addis Ababa are under the Command of Addis Ababa which is held by a brigade general.

Art. 55

The units designated as "African" consist of Italian white troops exclusively; the units designated as "Colonial" consist of natives commanded by Italians.

Each colonial battalion (or corresponding unit) is stationed in a definite locality, together with its respective mobilization center which functions also as its depot.

The Viceroy Governor General may rule that the colonial battalions, although stationed in a definite locality, can recruit their personnel outside of their territory.

Art. 56

Within each troop Hq and within the Command of Addis Ababa there are organized a territorial depot and a colonial depot.

Art. 57

Within each troop Hq and within the Command of Addis Ababa there are also organized:

- a section of artillery with storehouses and workshops;
- an office of engineers' works, with storehouses and workshops;
- a medical office with storehouses;
- a commissariat office with storehouses;
- an office of veterinary;
- a military tribunal.

Art. 58

For the territorial hospital service the troop Hq, the Hq of the national division and the Command of Addis Ababa avail themselves of the civil hospitals which are particularly fitted for this purpose.

Art. 59

The storehouses of the artillery, engineer, commissariat, medical and veterinary services located in Addis Ababa are so equipped as to be able to function also as central reserve storehouses, and to furnish the national division with the means indispensable for the organization of the elements required by the division when it must be employed outside of its ordinary station.

Art. 60

The motor vehicle service includes:

- one special grouping of African Black Shirts, in Addis Ababa, comprising the Hq, three motor vehicle groups and one depot with storehouses and workshops;

- one motorvehicle section of the R. Army, with workshops, to each troop Hq.

Art. 61

The map making service consists of one office at each troop Hq.

These offices are under their respective governments. The trend, the program and the development of the work is established by the Ministry of Italian Africa. The instructions for the technical operation of these offices are issued by the Military geographic institute, which must keep the Ministry of Italian Africa acquainted with them.

Art. 62

The Viceroy, Governor General may order the temporary displacement of Hq, units and services from one government to another.

Art. 63

The aggregate strength of the military and civil personnel of the ground armed forces of Italian East Africa belonging to the R. Army (exclusive of the Carabinieri whose strength shall be determined by a separate decree) and to the Militia, as far as the units listed in the present decree is concerned, is given in the following table.

This strength includes the personnel of the R. Army and of the Militia belonging to the ground armed forces of Italian East Africa and on duty at the Ministry of Italian Africa and dependent organization, exclusive of that foreseen by special regulations.

Strength of military and civil personnel
of the ground armed forces of East

Chief of Staff of general government (Corps General)	1
Troop commanders and commander of national division (Division Generals)	6
Deputy Chief of Staff, Inspector of colonial infantry, Inspectors of artillery, engineers, director of services, commander of Addis Ababa, vice commander of national division (Brigade generals)	7
Brigade generals or colonels	17
Consul general of African Black Shirts, Inspector	1
Colonels of various arms	16
Consuls of African Black Shirts	2
Colonels and Lt. Colonels	11
Lt. Colonels of various arms and corps	36
Lt. Colonels and Majors of various arms and corps	112
Majors of various arms and corps	69
First Seniors and Seniors of African Black Shirts	25
Majors or Captains of various arms and corps	19
Captains of various arms and corps	593
Centurions of African Black Shirts	104
Captains or Lieutenants of various arms and corps	87
1st or 2nd Lieutenants of various arms and corps	1174
Centurion or Chief maniple of the African Black Shirts	1
Chief maniples or Underchief maniples of African Black Shirts	190
Military chaplains	17

- 22 -

Regular civilian employees	125
Marshals of various arms and corps	457
Marshals or sergeant majors of various arms and corps	19
Adjutants of African Black Shirts	236
Adjutants of First Chiefs of Squads of African Black Shirts	16
Sergeant majors or sergeants of various arms and corps	924
First Chiefs of Squads or Chiefs of Squads of African Black Shirts	384
Italian troops and African Black Shirts	21148
Native troops	43270
Total	69084

Art. 64

By a decree of the Minister of Italian Africa all personnel listed above will be subdivided between the Hq, Commands and units of the ground armed forces stationed in East Africa and the colonial administration stationed in the Kingdom.

Art. 65

The R. Corps of colonial troops of Eritrea and Somaliland shall be suppressed. Their flags will be turned over to the Hq of the Eritrean troops and to the Hq of the Somaliland troops, respectively.

To the ground armed forces specified in this Decree there will be applied the existing military regulations of the R. Corps of colonial troops of Eritrea in case of the forces under the general government and under the governments of Eritrea and Amara, and the existing military regulations of the R. Corps of colonial troops of Somaliland in case of the forces under the governments of Somaliland, Harrar and Jalla and Sidama.

Art. 66

Appointment to the posts foreseen for the colonial armed forces is made by Royal Decree, upon recommendation of the Minister of Italian Africa, when general officers and colonels or officers of corresponding rank are concerned.

Summary: It is estimated that there are now approximately 96,000 Italian troops in East Africa, divided as follows:

Italian troops of the Colonial Garrisons as above	28,000
Troops of R. Aeronautica	13,000
Navy (port personnel)	5,000
Special Militias	2,000
Special troops and services	44,000
Black shirt troops (*)	7,000
	96,000

(*) Notes: The above Colonial Garrison specifies 13 Black Shirt Battalions and 2/0 Battalions. There are records of 24 such Battalions having sailed for East Africa since December 14th 1937 (see Reports No. 16,374; 16,380; 16,423; and 16,598) which would make 11 Battalions now in East Africa in excess of the authorized number. This indicates that there is still considerable native resistance in the territory.

The above Decree provides a very detailed and comprehensive system of colonial government. However there is danger that it is too comprehensive and provides too much government supervision as it has been reported from reliable sources that the petty supervision and interference of minor officials is considerably hampering the efficient development of business enterprises in the territory.

G. H. PAINE, Colonel, F. A., U. S. A.
Military Attache

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 741.65/605 FOR #1292FROM Egypt (Fish) DATED May 18, 1938
TO NAME 1-1157 ***

REGARDING: Declaration regarding the military duties of the
Natives of Italian East Africa. Since a considerable
proportion of the population of Ethiopia is now in open
rebellion against Italian authority and could by no
stretch of the imagination be forced into the military
service of Italy - this declaration has required no
special abnegation.

AlH
Gick

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

July 6, 1938.

11.51 20
It is estimated that on
May 31, 1938 there were 95,000
Italian troops and 110,857 Italian
workmen (including 30 ex-service
men), or total of 205,857 troops
and workmen, ~~now~~ in Italian East
Africa.

Eu: Hamlin: MLD

OK.

WNO

✓

6-4 JUL 1 1938
 OFFICE CHIEF
 MIL., INTL. DIV.
 2022-611
 258
 WAR DEPARTMENT
 6600

ITALY (Combat - Army)

Subject: Mobilization - GeneralTroop Shipments and Repatriations

The following troop shipments and repatriations (East Africa) have taken place during the months of March, April and May 1938. For previous report on this subject, see Italy No. 16,511-6600. Due to lack of detailed information from the Suez Canal Co., the information contained in this report is given in a resumé form.

Month of March

On March 31, the 2nd Battalion of Colonial Police left Naples for East Africa.

On March 12, 700 Mobilized Militia men were repatriated.

On March 24, the Black Shirt Group "Cirene" arrived at Naples. It included: Group Hq, Hqs of the 267,368 Legions, and the Battalions 267 "Catania", 368 "Reggio Calabria", 276 "Cagliari".

Total No. of troops and workmen shipped to East Africa	6112
" " " " " " repatriated	6162

Month of April

On April 26, the 3rd Battalion of Colonial Police left Naples for East Africa.

On April 28, the 4th Battalion of Colonial Police left Naples for East Africa.

Total No. of troops and workmen shipped to East Africa	3752
" " " " " " repatriated	6671

Month of May

On May 12, the following Black Shirt Battalions left Naples for East Africa: 751 "Salerno", 745 "Castellammare", 767 "Catania", 752 "Lecce", 763 "Reggio Calabria".

Total No. of troops and workmen shipped to East Africa	7420
" " " " " " repatriated	10022

Bulletins Nos. 31, 32, 33

Bulletin No. 31 - for March - gives the following losses:

Troops - Killed in police operations	15)	
Died of diseases and various causes	46)	59
Workmen - Died from accidents and diseases		31

Bulletin No. 32 - for April - gives the following losses:

Troops - Killed in police operations	5)	
Died of diseases and various causes	20)	25
Workmen - Died from accidents and diseases		58

8650.20/32

Bulletin No. 23 - for May - gives the following losses:

Troops - Killed in police operations	16)	
Died of diseases and various causes	48)	64
Workmen - Died from accidents and diseases		62

Consequently, the total Italian losses in E.A. as of May 31, 1938, amounted to:

Military personnel	4397)	
Workmen	1893)	6290

Suez Canal records give (May 31, 1938):

Total troops and workmen passed south	765,317
" " " " repatriated	502,420

Considering the Italian losses (6290) and the 750 troops sent to China from E.A. it may be figured out that on May 31, 1938, there were in East Africa 208,857 troops and workmen. These may be tentatively subdivided as follows:

Troops (Italian)	95,000
Workmen "	110,857 (*)

(*) This includes about 30,000 ex service men who volunteered to remain in East Africa as farmers and workmen.

G. H. Zaine
Col. F.A. USA
Military Attaché

0-2 Report

6-4 2022-328
JUN 25 1931
MIL. INTL. SV.
WAR DEPARTMENT
13

ITALY (COMBAT - ARMY)

Subject: Pay and Allowances

Pay and Allowances in East Africa

Inclosed herewith resume translations of Royal Decree No. 201 dealing with " Allowances and leave of absence for the civilian and military personnel on duty in Italian East Africa " and Ministerial Decree of April 13, 1938 dealing with " Post Allowance for personnel on duty in East Africa at posts where living conditions are unfavorable ". From this second Decree it will be noted that practically the whole of East Africa, in a variable measure, is considered an " unfavorable " country in which to live.

Inclosures: 2
Royal Decree No. 201
Ministerial Decree, Apr. 13, 1938

G. H. Prime
Col. F.A. USA
Military Attaché

Sources:

Giornale Militare Ufficiale No. 22, 26th April 1938
" " " No. 27, 26th May 1938

8651.20/33

MILITARY ATTACHE

African Embassy

6-4
JUN 25 1938
OFFICE (CIN) 6-4
MIL. INTER. DIV.

2022-328
13
WAR DEPARTMENT

Royal Decree No. 281 of February 7, 1938
published in the Official Gazette
No. 84 of April 12, 1938

Allowances and leave of absence due to the civilian and
military personnel on duty in Italian
East Africa

Chapter I

Rules applying both to the civilian and
the military personnel in E.A.

Art. 1

The allowances due to the civilian and military personnel on
duty in East Africa are set forth in the present Decree.

Art. 2

Civilian personnel, officers, marshals and corresponding grades
are entitled to a colonial allowance equal to their pay increased by
one fourth.

Art. 3

Civilian personnel, officers, marshals and corresponding grades
are entitled to an additional "post allowance" if on duty at posts
where living conditions are unfavorable. The amount of this allowance
is established by separate Decree.

Art. 4

The Administration of East Africa shall pay all expenses in con-
nection with the maintenance and treatment of officers, NCOs, enlisted
men and civilian employees taken to hospitals in East Africa or in Italy:

a) when wounded or mutilated while participating in operations
of colonial police, or when sick as a result of efforts or hard work
in connection with operations of colonial police;

b) when sick as a result of tropical diseases, to be recognized
by the Ministry of Italian Africa.

Art. 5

Civilian and military personnel sent to Italy for treatment of
wounds, mutilations and sicknesses will be paid the same allowances as
if housed in colonial hospitals for a period of 60 days from the date
of their landing in Italy. They shall not receive, during this period,
those allowances for which actual presence in the colony is required.

If housed in the hospital for a period of over 60 days, they
shall receive only the allowances paid to civilian and military person-
nel housed in metropolitan hospitals, beginning with the first day
after the 60th.

Art. 6

Civilian and military personnel sent to Italy for treatment of
sicknesses not derived from their duty in the colony is not entitled
to any colonial allowance from the day of their landing in Italy.

While in the hospital, they shall receive only the allowances
paid to civilian and military personnel housed in the metro-
politan hospitals.

- 2 -

Art. 7

Should it be impossible to ascertain immediately whether or not the wound, mutilation or sickness is due to participation in operations of colonial police, a temporary certificate will be issued by the commander of the corps or independent unit, or by the civilian chief of service, accompanied by a declaration by the local medical officer. This certificate is valid only in connection with the determination of the allowance to be paid while the person is housed in the hospital in E.A. or in Italy and while subsequently on sick leave.

Chapter II

Rules applying only to civilian personnel

Art. 10

Ordinary leave of absence for civilian personnel on duty in East Africa takes place every second year and lasts 120 days.

If on duty at posts where living conditions are unfavorable, ordinary leave of absence will be increased by 30 days for each year spent at the post. The rules governing this increase in ordinary leave of absence will be established by the Ministry of Italian Africa.

Art. 11

The Chief of Cabinet of the Governor General of Italian East Africa receives a yearly entertaining allowance of 10,000 Lire.

Chapter III

Rules applying only to military personnel

Heading 1

Rules applying to national military personnel

Section 1 - Uniform and equipment allowance

Art. 12

The uniform and equipment allowance due to Army officers and marshals and to officers and adjutants of the Militia on duty in East Africa is as follows:

4000	Lire to Corps generals	-	and corresponding grade of Militia			
3800	" " Division "	-	" " " " "	"	"	"
2500	" " Brigade "		" " " " "	"	"	"
	and Colonels	"	" " " " "	"	"	"
2000	" to Lt. Colonels,		" " " " "	"	"	"
	Majors and Captains	"	" " " " "	"	"	"
1500	" to Lieutenants	"	" " " " "	"	"	"
800	" " Marshals	-	" " " " "	"	"	"

Art. 13

Officers and marshals of Headquarters, units and services of the Army, as well as officers and adjutants of Black Shirt units temporarily on duty in East Africa, are entitled to the uniform and equipment allowance established by Art. 12.

- 3 -

Section 2 - Entertainment allowance

Art. 14

The entertainment allowance is as follows:

ROYAL ARMY

Chief of Staff of general government	L. 25,000
Deputy Chief of Staff " "	15,000
Commander of troops of each government	20,000
General in command of troops	15,000
Commander of the national division	12,000

ROYAL NAVY

Chief Navy commander in East Africa:	
if a Fleet admiral	25,000
if a Division admiral	25,000
if a Counteredmiral	20,000
Chief of Staff (if an admiral)	15,000
Deputy chief of Staff (if an admiral)	5,000

R. Aeronautica

Commander of the Air Forces	25,000
Chief of Staff	20,000
Deputy Chief of Staff	15,000
Generals, in command of aeronautical sectors	15,000

General officers and colonels not included in the above list, are entitled to an entertainment allowance determined by special regulations.

Section 3 - Post allowance (for officers commanding native troops)

Art. 15

Commanders of colonial brigades are entitled to a post allowance of 1000 Lire a year.

Other officers in command of native troops are also entitled to this allowance, determined by special regulations.

Section 4 - Quarter allowance

Art. 16

Quarter allowance is paid to officers, NCOs and enlisted men of the Carabinieri, Finance Guard, and special Militias in compliance with the rules operative in Italy.

In case of officers, however, in order to establish the amount of allowance to be paid, the Ministry of Italian Africa shall classify in a special list the localities of East Africa where such allowance is due.

In case of NCOs and enlisted men, this allowance can in no case be inferior to that paid in Italy.

Section 5 - Pay and allowances of reserve officers recalled for duty

Art. 17

Reserve officers recalled for duty in East Africa are entitled to pay, allowance for active service, military allowance and the increase pertaining thereto, as determined by special regulations.

Section 6 - Daily colonial pay and colonial additional pay

Art. 18

Sergeant majors and sergeants (and corresponding grades) and enlisted men of the armed forces who are paid like in Italy, are entitled to a daily colonial additional pay, as established by special regulations.

Art. 19

Corporal majors, corporals and enlisted men (and corresponding grades in the Militia) belonging to colonial troops and to metropolitan units of the R. Army or of the Militia, are entitled to a daily colonial pay as follows:

Corporal major or vice chief of squad	Lire 7
Corporal or selected black shirt	" 6
Enlisted man or black shirt	" 5

Men having re-enlisted are entitled to an increase of Lire 0.80 per day.

Art. 21

Stoppages against the personnel listed in Art. 19 will be made on the base of 50% of their daily colonial pay, in case of debts toward the military administration.

Stoppages against enlisted men of the R. Aeronautica who receive pay like in Italy and a daily colonial additional pay will be made on the base of 66% of their colonial additional pay.

Art. 22

Enlisted men of the R. Navy on duty on shore and men of the R. Aeronautica are entitled to the daily colonial pay set forth in Art. 19 if this is more favorable than their pay like in Italy and the daily colonial additional pay. In addition they will get the allowances and premiums established for specialists and for special duty, if entitled to them.

Art. 23

BOOs (Marshals and adjutants excluded) and enlisted men of the colonial troops and of the metropolitan units of the Army and Black Shirts will pay, when punished:

- one third of the colonial additional pay if sergeant majors or sergeants;
- one half of the colonial additional pay if Carabinieri;
- one fourth of the colonial daily pay if corporal majors, corporals or enlisted men.

In case of severe punishments, these percentages may be increased.

The sums thus paid will be transferred to the special subsidy fund established by the colonial military regulations.

BOOs and enlisted men of the R. Aeronautica, when punished, will also pay like the men of the Army and Black Shirts but the sums thus paid will be transferred to the Institute for the orphans of aviators.

Section 8 - Allowance for colonial police operations

Art. 25

National military personnel of units, columns and aircraft crews participating in colonial police operations is entitled to an allowance

as given in the following table:

		Daily Lire 25
General officer	and corresp. grades	" 20
Colonel	"	" 17
Lt. Col, Major and First Captain	"	" 15
Capt and 1st Lieut.	"	" 12.50
2nd Lieut.	"	" 8
Adjutant and marshal	"	" 2.50
Sergeant major	"	" 2
Sergeant	"	" 0.40
Corporal major, corporal and enlisted man	"	"

The Governor will establish the dates of beginning and ending of this allowance.

Art. 26

The allowance described above replaces the allowance of march, displacement and aerial maneuver when the latter are paid in Italy.

Art. 27

Military personnel leaving posts where living conditions are unfavorable (and consequently entitled to a "Post allowance" as established by Art. 3) and obtaining the allowance for colonial police operations described in Art. 25 and 26, continues to receive the "Post allowance" for another 20 days. In no other case is it possible to receive both the "Post allowance" and the allowance for colonial police operations.

Section 9 - Leave of absence

Art. 28

The rules of Art. 10 (applying to civilian personnel) apply also to ordinary colonial leave of absence for military personnel.

The leave of absence granted every second year to marshals is however reduced to 90 days and that granted to all other NCOs and enlisted men is reduced to 60 days.

Heading 2

also applying to native military personnel

Art. 31

The pay of native troops of the General Government of East Africa and of the Government of Amhara is established by special regulations. That of the native troops of the Governments of Harrar and of Galla and Sidama by other special regulations.

Art. 32

The food allowance for native troops is Lire 1.60 daily.

Art. 33

The ration established for special cases and for the case of operations is due to native troops while in service, except:

- when on leave of absence;
- when housed in hospitals;
- when in jail, pending judgement;
- if absent from their unit, without permission;
- if present at their unit with their family in a special adjoining camp.

Art. 34

Native troops and Italian Libyan citizens on duty in East Africa are entitled to an allowance for high cost of living, as follows:

		Daily
Ascar	- and corresp. grades	Lire 1.50
Machil	- " " "	" 2.25
Muntas	- " " "	" 3.
Silue Bassi	- " " "	" 4.50
Solimbassi	- " " "	" 6.
and Iushaschi		

This allowance is not paid:

- if the pay is reduced or suspended;
- during leave of absence;
- when housed in hospitals, for causes independent from duty.

Heading 3

rules applying to both national and native troops

Art. 36

Allowances and additional pay due to NCOs and troops - national and natives - for special duty and services shall be established in a single special table, to be approved by the Governor general.

Ministerial Decree of April 13, 1938
published in the Giornale Militare
of May 26, 1938

"POST ALLOWANCE" due to personnel on duty
in East Africa at posts where living con-
ditions are unfavorable

Art. 1

The "Post Allowance" foreseen by Art. 3 of R. Decree No. 201 and due to civilian and military personnel on duty in East Africa is graduated in five grades.

Art. 2

The amount of the Post Allowance for civilian and military personnel is as follows:

a) For officers and civilian personnel of corresponding grades:

1st grade	-	1/6th	of pay
2nd "	-	1/4th	" "
3rd "	-	1/3rd	" "
4th "	-	5/12th	" "
5th "	-	1/2	" "

b) For marshals and civilian personnel of corresponding grades:

1st grade	-	1000	Lire yearly
2nd "	-	2000	" "
3rd "	-	3000	" "
4th "	-	4000	" "
5th "	-	5000	" "

Art. 3

The attached table gives the localities of East Africa where living conditions are unfavorable and the corresponding grade of Post Allowance due.

Art. 4

The Post Allowance is due to military and civilian personnel on duty in the localities listed in the attached table during the period of their actual permanence. It is also paid during the first 20 days to personnel leaving temporarily the locality provided he is entitled to a mission allowance.

Personnel proceeding to a locality listed in the table and not entitled to a mission allowance, shall receive the post allowance from the day of arrival.

Art. 5

In the localities listed in the attached table, where post allowance is due to officers, marshals and corresponding grades, additional pay in the measure as specified below is due to all other NCOs and men:

	Sergeant majors and corresp.	Sergeants and corresp.	Unlisted men
1st grade	0.80	0.70	0.30
2nd "	1.60	1.40	0.45
3rd "	2.40	2.10	0.65
4th "	3.20	2.80	0.90
5th "	4.00	3.60	1.20

**Table of localities in East Africa
where Post Allowance is due.**

**Grade of
allowance due.**

Government of Briton	
Territory of the Commissary of Banakil (exclusive of Asseb)	4th
Asseb and territory of the Commissary of the western low land	3rd
Territory of the Commissaries of Alomati and the eastern low land	2nd
Territory of the Commissaries of Adma, Adigrat, Macalle and Teshien	1st
Government of Ashara	
Localities below 1200 m altitude of the territory of the Commissaries of Senien and Gendar	4th
Territories of the Commissaries of Gendar (exclusive of localities below 1200 m), Gogiam, Begenadier and Debra Araken	2nd
Territories of the Commissaries of Senien (exclusive of localities below 1200 m), and of Uelle	1st
Government of Addis Ababa	
The entire territory	3rd
Government of Galla Sidaama	
Localities below 1200 m altitude of the territory of the Commissaries of Bare and Jabus, Gere, Caffa and Chinirra, Magi and Sciurre, Bace and Serana	5th
All the remainder territory	4th
Government of Harar	
Territory of the Commissary of Dire Dawa (exclusive of the localities along the railroad line)	4th
Territories of the Commissaries of Arussi, Goba and Chiguer	3rd
Territories of the Commissaries of Giggiga, Harar, Geroor and localities of the Com- missary of Dire Dawa along the railroad line	1st
Government of Somalia	
Territories of the Commissaries of Ogden, Uebi Gestro, Madugh and Migiurtinia	4th
Territory of the Commissaries of Low Giuba, High Giuba, Low Soobeli, High Soobeli (ex- clusive of Chisimio, Brava, Berca and Mo- gadiscio)	3rd
Chisimio, Brava, Berca and Mogadiscio	2nd

G-3 Report

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ITALY (COMBAT - 1938)

Subject : Distribution of Troops.

Black Shirt Militia Units to East Africa.

For previous reports on this subject see Reports ITALY No. 16,372, December 17, 1937, No. 16,380, December 23rd 1937 and No. 16,423, January 27th, 1938.

To date there is no record of the sailing of the 662d and 671st Battalions listed in No. 16,423.

The press has announced the following shipments of Black Shirt Battalions to East Africa on May 12th and 13th by SS "Colombo" and "Jannic".

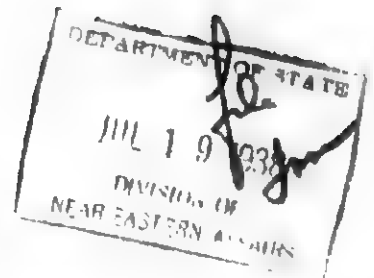
731st Battalion	from	Sulmona
745th	"	" Castellonare
767th	"	" Catania
752nd	"	" Lecce
763rd	"	" Reggio Calabria

In this connection see comment on Report No. 16,596.

G. H. PAINE,
Colonel, U.S.A.,
Military Attaché

365D.20/34

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
JUL 1 1938



May 27, 1938.

THE ANGLO-ITALIAN ACCORD AND THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO
THE ENROLLMENT OF NATIVES OF ITALIAN EAST AFRICA

Annex six of the Anglo-Italian Accord of April 16, 1938,
reads as follows:

700
700
"The Italian Government reaffirm the assurance
which they gave in their note to the League of
Nations of the 29th June, 1936, that Italy on her
side was willing to accept the principle that natives
of Italian East Africa should not be compelled to
undertake military duties other than local policing
and territorial defence."

It is to be noted that the undertaking is a reaffirma-
tion of an assurance previously given by Italy.

The assurance, however, is not as explicit as a comparable
assurance given by Great Britain in Article 6 (1)b of Annex 3
that in the territories of the Arab rulers under its protec-
tion it:

"will not enroll the inhabitants of any of these
territories, or cause them to be enrolled, in any
military forces other than forces designed and
suited solely for the preservation of order and
for local defence."

As has been pointed out, there is nothing in the Italian
assurance to prevent the compulsory enrollment of Ethiopians
in the Italian Army to take part in the military defense of
Ethiopia and the use of such troops thereafter as "volunteers"
in any part of the world.

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It has been stated already in the press that semi-official Italian newspapers have made the reservation as to this annex that it will be applicable only in the event that France consents to the undertaking of a similar obligation in respect of its native troops. Such a reservation would hardly seem necessary in view of the use of the word "compelled" in the Italian assurance.

ITALY (POLITICAL ./ COMBAT - ARMY)

Subject: Army Establishments
Relationship between Mother Country and
its Possessions.
Military Organization of Italian East Africa
Black Shirt Militia - Reserve.

On December 10, 1938, the Duce received General Passerone, Commandant of the Black Shirt Militia in East Africa.

General Passerone submitted a complete report of the general situation of the Black Shirt units in East Africa.

According to a communiqué given to the press, General Passerone stated that in the last few months he has been able to organize 7 Legions of Militia, which is composed (besides territorial units and units composed of workers) of 22 battalions of Black Shirt Militia; 15 heavy machine-gun companies; 7 anti-aircraft batteries and 2 Coast Artillery batteries.

The personnel of these units is composed entirely of Italian civilians (many of them discharged soldiers) who have taken up permanent residence in Abyssinia.

The equipment and armament of these units is said to be complete.

Summary:

It is estimated that these units comprise approximately 15000 men available for police or combat purposes when necessary. These units are apparently in addition to the Black Shirt units specified in paragraphs 55, 63 and Summary of Report ITALY No. 16,596-3030/6010, May 19th 1938.

G. E. Faine.
 Col., R. A., U. S. A.
 Military Attache'.

365D.20/36

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 852.00/8930 FOR Tel. #41, noon

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Feb. 8, 1939
TO NAME 1-1227 ***

REGARDING: Italians sending an additional thirty thousand troops to Libya which will bring up their number to 60,000; purely a defence measure in view of the presence in Tunisia of about 100,000 French troops.

mb

8650.20/37

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

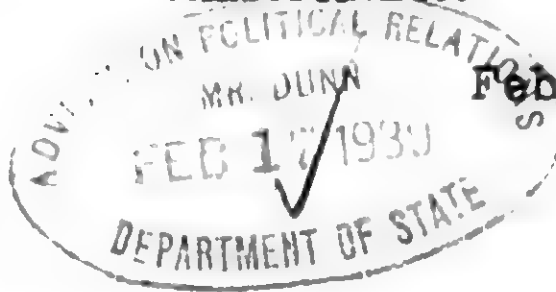
DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM

February 17, 1939.

~~P.M.~~

~~J.C.D.~~



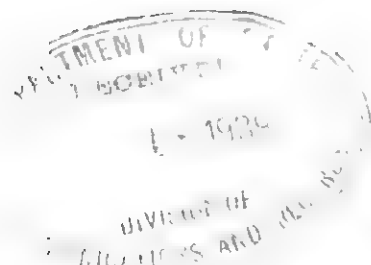
From movements of Italian troops and workmen through the Suez Canal, allowing for Italian losses of 7056 and for 750 Italian troops sent to China from Italian East Africa, the Military Attache in Rome has figured out that as of December 31, 1938, there were in Italian East Africa 177,706 Italian troops and workmen. These may be divided as follows:

Italian troops	77,908
Italian workmen.....	42,798
Italian workmen (ex service men)	57,000

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on it.

U-2 Report



ITALY (Combat - Army)

Subject: Mobilization - General

Troop Shipments and Repatriations - East Africa

The following troop shipments and repatriations (East Africa) have taken place during the month of December 1938, according to information from the Suez Canal Co. For previous report on this subject see Italy No. 16,000-6600.

Total No. of troops and workmen shipped to E.A.	6987
" " " " " " repatriated	9614

Bulletin No. 40

The Bulletin for December 1938 gives the following losses:

Troops - Killed in police operations	25)	
Died of diseases and various causes	21)	46
Workmen - died from accidents and diseases		65

Consequently, the total Italian losses in E.A. from Jan. 1, 1938 to Dec. 31, 1938, amount to:

Military personnel	4738)	
Workmen	2326)	7064

Suez Canal records give (Dec. 31, 1938):

Total troops and workmen passed south	797,648
" " " " repatriated	612,156

Considering the Italian losses (7064) and the 780 troops sent to China from E.A. it may be figured out that as of Dec. 31, 1938, there were in E.A. 177,706 troops and workmen. These may be divided as follows:

Troops (Italian)	77,508
Workmen "	62,798
" (ex service men)	37,400

G. H. Paine
Col. E.A. USA
Military Attaché

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 8654.51/18 FOR Despatch #1428

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED May 16, 1939
TO NAME 1-1127 070

REGARDING:

Estimated military expenditures for Libya and East Africa:
Encloses report by Military Attache giving details with regard to-

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G-2 Report

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THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
Rome, Italy.

ITALY (Combat - Army)

Subject: Mobilization - General

Troop Shipments and Repatriations - East Africa

The following troop shipments and repatriations (East Africa) have taken place during the months of March, April and May 1939, according to information from the Suez Canal Co. For previous report on this subject see Italy No. 16,992-6600.

Total No. of troops and workmen shipped to E.A.	21,459
" " " " " " repatriated	21,798

Bulletins Nos. 43, 44 and 45

These bulletins, for March, April and May 1939 give the following losses:

Troops - Killed in police operations	20
died of diseases and various causes	63

Consequently the Italian losses of military personnel in E.A. from Jan. 1, 1935 to May 31, 1939 amount to 4863.

The losses of workmen are no longer published by the Italian press.

Suez Canal records give (May 31, 1939):

Total troops and workmen passed south	829,125
" " " " repatriated	645,174

Considering the Italian losses, it may be figured out that as of May 31, 1939 there were in E.A. approximately 175,827 troops and workmen. These may be divided as follows:

Troops (Italian)	67,827
Workmen "	46,000
" (ex service men)	62,000

In addition to these, it is reported that there are in E.A. 135,000 Italian farmers (inclusive of wives and children). The native population is now estimated at approximately 11,500,000 souls.

Sources:

Suez Canal reports
Italian press

G. H. Paine
Col. Gen. USA
Military Attaché

From: M. A. Rome

Office No. 17,007

June 9, 1939

365D.20/40

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DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 883.20/70 FOR Despatch #1686

FROM Egypt (Fish) DATED June 12, 1939
TO NAME 1-1137 ***

REGARDING:

Military situation in Ethiopia as reported by Vice Consul Jay Walker.

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865D.20/41

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5658.20/41

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT

Italian forces in Ethiopia:
Information concerning - .

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For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Tel. 103, 10am
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Sept. 7, 1939 From Egypt, Fish
/Pq//

File No. 865c.20/51

865D.20/42

2

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT

Military situation in Ethiopia.

Encloses copy of memorandum by Vice Consul Walker concerning-.

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Despatch #1818

(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Sept. 18, 1939

From
To

Egypt

File No. 865c.20/54

865D.20/43

Central File: Decimal File 865D.20, Internal Affairs Of States, Military Affairs. Army. Army Posts. Fortifications. Defenses. Military Instructors (Advisers). (** Country In Which Serving.), May 23, 1936 - September 18, 1939. May 23, 1936 - September 18, 1939. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109731024%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 18 June 2025.